

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3099
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UNCLAS CARACAS 5153

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, VE
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: WATER SUPPLY

1. INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE OBRAS SANITARIAS (INOS), THE GOV
WATER UTILITY, HAS ANNOUNCED A THREE-PHASE, BS. 2.3 BILLION
CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS AND DRAINAGE
FACILITIES. INOS IS REQUESTING CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION
FOR PUBLIC FINANCING OF THESE PROJECTS.

2. PHASE I CONSISTS OF ENLARGEMENT OF THE POTABLE WATER SYSTEM
FOR THE CITY OF CARACAS AND FOR THE SATELLITE CITY OF
CIUDAD FAJARDO (GUATIRE-GUARENAS) EAST OF CARACAS. PHASE I
ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY STANDBY
SUPPLY SYSTEM. PHASE I COST IS ESTIMATED AT BS. 1.027 BILLION.

PHASE II, TO COST BS. 1.062 BILLION, IS DIRECTED TOWARD
RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE WATER SYSTEMS OF CARUPANO,
CIUDAD BOLIVAR, CIUDAD GUAYANA, LA GUIJIRA, LA GRITA,
MATURIN, MACUJEPE, PUERTO AYACUCHO, PUERTO CABELLO, TORONDOY,
BETIJOQUE, MOTATAN, URACHIRE, AND THE FEDERAL DISTRICT AREA
ALONG THE COAST. PHASE III, ESTIMATED TO REQUIRE AN INVESTMENT
OF BS. 229 MILLION, IS TO PROVIDE BETTER DRAINAGE FACI-
LITIES FOR SAN FERNANDO, VALENCIA, SAN CARLOS, CALABOZO,
BARCELONA, CARUPANO, CUMANA, PUERTO LA CRUZ, EL TIGRE, MATURIN,
ACARIGUA, ARAURE, BARQUISIMETO, BARINAS AND MARACAIBO.

3. THE PROJECTS OUTLINED ABOVE WILL REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL
QUANTITIES OF IMPORTED COMPONENTS, TO INCLUDE PUMPS, WATER
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TREATMENT PLANTS, VALVES, AND SOME TYPES OF PIPING NOT

PRODUCED DOMESTICALLY. INOS ESTIMATES SUCH EQUIPMENT COSTS
AT \$200 MILLION, MOST OF IT TO BE IMPORTED.

4. INOS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT, PROVIDED CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL IS OBTAINED, BIDDING FOR SOME OF THESE PROJECTS WILL
BE OPENED IMMEDIATELY. TENDERS WILL BE LIMITED TO DOMESTIC
SUPPLIERS OR CONTRACTORS. US. MANUFACTURERS SHOULD THEREFORE
ALERT THEIR AGENTS OR ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SUITABLE LOCAL
REPRESENTATION.
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